

1998 GRAPE SUMMARY

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Virginia's grape producers harvested 3,185.1 tons of commercial grapes in 1998, up 8 percent from the 2,957.7 tons produced in 1997 and 81 percent above 1996. Vineyard acreage totaled 1,608.3, a three percent increase from a year ago. Non-bearing acres again accounted for the largest increase due to several new vineyards entering into the market. Bearing acres totaled 1,290.7, up fractionally from 1997. This slight increase is due to the normal maturation of younger vines. The Chardonnay variety made up 33 percent of Virginia's total production of all the Vinifera varieties harvested in 1998. Also, Virginia's most popular variety accounted for 39 percent of all the Vinifera variety bearing acreage and 28 percent of the total vineyards statewide.

Weather conditions were again favorable for a vintage year, however, production potential was reduced due to freeze and hail damage in some Northern and Central localities. Some vineyards are still recovering from the 1996 freeze damage. Dry weather conditions caused damage to some varieties resulting in pulled vines and no production. Decreased production in the Chardonnay variety was mainly due to major deer damage. Some producers continue to fight powdery mildew infestation along with other fungous diseases in some localities. Several vineyards were abandoned again this year. ♦

Production and Acreage by Variety, 1998 1/

Variety	Production	Current Acreage	
		Bearing	Non-bearing
	-Tons-	-Acres-	-Acres-
VINIFERA:			
Chardonnay	821.7	388.1	63.8
Cabernet Sauvignon	408.1	167.5	23.3
Cabernet Franc	253.7	73.5	36.1
Gewurztraminer	31.7	14.0	2.2
Merlot	162.0	76.2	12.2
Pinot Noir	53.3	23.9	7.4
Sauvignon Blanc	36.5	17.3	1.7
White Riesling	307.6	114.2	7.0
Other White Vinifera **	204.6	62.1	42.6
Other Red Vinifera **	189.1	51.2	58.2
HYBRID:			
Seyval	163.6	79.4	1.2
Vidal Blanc	256.3	82.0	29.2
Chambourcin	67.8	32.6	9.4
Other White Hybrid **	30.2	23.7	8.2
Other Red Hybrid **	33.1	23.7	5.8
AMERICAN:			
Concord	98.1	33.6	*
Seedless Table (all)	6.9	4.4	1.2
Other Red/Black American **	34.0	10.8	5.7
Other White American **	26.8	12.5	*
TOTAL:	3,185.1	1,290.7	317.6

1/ "Commercial" grape producers, as used here, includes producers of at least one acre of grapes primarily for sale or use in their own licensed winery. * Some varieties not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. Production and acreage are included in "state totals."

** **White Hybrids:** Cayuga, Rayon D'Or, Aurore, Chardonnay. **Red Hybrids:** Foch, Villard Noir, Chancellor, Rougeon. **White Vinifera:** Malvasia, Pinot Gris, Muscat, Villard Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Semillon, Symphony, Viognier, Chasselas. **Red Vinifera:** Canelan, Barbera, Sangiovese, Syrah, Petit Verdot, Carmine. **Red/Black American:** Delaware, Steuben, Sheridan, Fredonia, Norton, Worden White. **White American:** Melody, Vignoles, Niagara.